

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (c) Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) is setting up a refinery of 9 million metric tonnes per annum (MMTPA) capacity at village Abhayachandrapur near Pradip in Orissa and the project as per present schedules, is likely to be completed in August, 2003.

**Award of Dealerships to SCs/STs for Transportation of Petroleum Products etc.**

1629. SHRI R.N. ARYA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that various oil companies falling within the administrative control of his Ministry appoint/engage persons' firms as dealers for transportation, carry and forward as well as sale of various petroleum products such as Naptha;
- (b) if so, the provisions, if any, made for providing quota in such dealerships/agencies for the SCs/STs and the number of such dealerships awarded to the persons belonging to the SCs/STs during the last five years as compared to the total dealerships and there percentage; and
- (c) if not, the reasons for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (c) Oil marketing companies appoint persons firms as dealers for transportation, clearing and forwarding agents and distributors for marketing of various petroleum products. As far as naphtha is concerned the same is allocated to various sectors like fertilizers, power, petro-chemical etc. as per the laid down policy.

As per the Government guidelines 25% of Retail Outlets Dealerships, LPG Distributorships and SKO-LDO Dealerships are reserved for SC/STs. The Govt, guidelines for award of POL Road movement, the percentage of reservation is 15% for SCs and 7.5% of STs on all India basis. The members of SC/ST desirous of operating the transport trucks have to participate in the tenders floated by oil industry. The members of SC/ST should fulfil all tender conditions

and are not eligible for any price preference or relaxation of standards.

**Impact of international oil price hike on balance of trade and BOP**

1630. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) what has been the impact of oil price hike in the international market on our balance of trade and balance of payment;
- (b) how do Government propose to finance the additional deficit; and
- (c) what steps Government are taking to reduce imports by increasing domestic production of oil?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) Steps have been taken to increase crude oil production in the country through application of improved technologies, development of new fields, additional development of existing fields and by inviting foreign and private capital in the upstream sector. Steps have also been taken to increase refining capacity by expansion of existing refineries in public sector and setting up of refineries in joint sector and private sector.

**Filling up of reserved posts for SCs and STs**

1631. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of various posts reserved for SCs and STs lying vacant in his Ministry and its subordinate offices for the last five years and till date, category-wise;
- (b) the necessary action being taken or proposed to be taken by Government to fill them up; and
- (c) the time by which the above vacancies are likely to be filled up?